

30th September, 1943.

B.S. 1943 9B)
9C)



BUSINESS STATISTICS SEPTEMBER, 1943.

C O N T E N T S.

PART I

PRIMARY & EXPORT INDUSTRIES.

RURAL INDUSTRIES - GENERAL.

Seasonal conditions. Super-phosphate ration, 1943-44. Vegetable marketing.

WOOL: ✓ Sydney receivals and appraisements. High consumption in U.S.A.

WHEAT: ✓ Change in Canadian policy.

MEAT: ✓ New quotas. Pig Meats Advisory Committee.

POTATOES: ✓ Good early coastal crop.

DAIRY INDUSTRIES: Butter and cheese quotas in October, 1943. Pay to cream suppliers in August, 1943.

PART II

FINANCE & TRADE.

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT: ✓ Budget, 1943-44.

BOND YIELDS: August, 1943.

SHARE PRICES: August, 1943.

SAVINGS: Savings Bank deposits and War Savings Certificates, August, 1943.

WHOLESALE TRADE: Sales in July, 1943.

RETAIL TRADE: Sales, Stock, etc., July, 1943.

PART III

INDUSTRY, TRANSPORT, ETC.

EMPLOYMENT: July, 1943.

TRANSPORT: Railways, Trams and Buses, July, 1943. Motor vehicles registered, August, 1943.

BUILDING: Private permits and Government contracts, August, 1943.

Action to relieve labour shortages in food producing and processing, transport and other essential industries has been approved by War Cabinet. The industries are to be provided with 100,000 additional workers by the middle of 1944, there is to be a release of civilian internees for work in industry and more prisoners of war are to be sought from overseas. For the more effective use of labour available in industry hours of work are to be increased where necessary, dilution of labour in skilled trades is to be accelerated and schemes to provide incentives for greater output are to be considered.

Additional workers to be placed in the selected industries are to be drawn from the following sources; viz., the Services 50,000 (a maximum of 20,000 men will be specially released and routine discharges are expected to provide 30,000 men fit for work); munitions and aircraft industries 20,000; diversion of female workers 30,000. Of the men released from the Services 15,000 are to be experienced rural workers who will return to the rural industries.

As a means of solving the difficult problem of providing adequate transport facilities for the rural industries, investigations are to be made into the possibilities of using Army personnel and transport and of increasing the tonnage of coastal shipping.

PART I

PRIMARY AND EXPORT INDUSTRIES.

GENERAL.

Seasonal Conditions: Since mid-September, there have been further heavy rains on the Coast and Tablelands and light to moderate falls on the Slopes and Riverina. Little rain fell in the Plains and Far West.

Superphosphate.

There is to be no reduction in 1943-44 in the supplies of superphosphate made available for vegetable and potato crops, or for non-priority crops when last years ration was 3 tons or less. Rations for non-priority crops (e.g. cereals) which were 3 to $5\frac{1}{2}$ tons in 1942-43 are to be reduced to 3 tons, and those in excess of $5\frac{1}{2}$ tons but less than 11 tons are to be reduced by 45%. Rations which were 11 tons or more in 1942-43 are to be specially reviewed.

Vegetable Marketing.

In the circumstances of expanding vegetable production, the need at times for Government support of the market is recognised by the Chairman of the Agricultural Standing Committee and the Food Controller. The plan envisaged is not a "minimum price guarantee", but one in which food control would, at modest prices, take temporary surpluses off the market for canning and dehydration..

WOOL.

Receivals and appraisements of wool in Sydney to late September were less than last year:

| | <u>No. of Bales.</u> | | |
|---------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| | <u>1942-43</u> | <u>1943-44</u> | <u>Decrease</u> |
| Receivals | 325,762 | 287,234 | 38,528 |
| Appraisements | <u>242,607</u> | <u>209,024</u> | <u>33,583</u> |

Wool consumption in U.S.A. mills in the five months Jan.-May, 1943 was 493.3 m. lbs., 42.5 m. lbs. more than in the same period in 1942, when consumption was a record. Military requirements are said to have passed the peak but continuance of heavy consumption is expected as civilian clothing is not rationed.

WHEAT.

In Canada, the purchase and sale of wheat have been placed under the control of the Wheat Board and trading on the Winnipeg Grain Exchange has been suspended. It has been announced that the change has been introduced in order to make it possible to deal with current and future marketing problems on a basis more suitable to war conditions.

MEAT.

Beef for civilian consumption was brought under the quota system on 6th September, 1943, when retailers purchases were restricted to 50% of quantities obtained in April, 1943. Three weeks later, on 27th September, the beef quota was reduced to 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ % and on 11th October, 1943, a quota (120% of April purchases) was fixed for mutton and lamb. The quotas represent a reduction of 25% in the combined supplies of beef, mutton and lamb.

The "Pig Meats Advisory Committee" has been appointed by the Minister for Commerce and Agriculture to assist in developing the pig industry in N.S.W. Personnel of the Committee is: the Deputy Meat Controller, Chief Piggery Instructor (Dept. of Agriculture) and two representatives of producers and of manufacturers. The Agricultural Standing Committee (Senior Dept'l. Officers) have expressed the view that, with adequate labour, feed and materials, the Australian production of pigmeats could be increased by 25% in 1944 and a further 20% by mid 1945.

POTATOES.

The early coastal potato crop is expected to yield a greater production than last year, although the area planted is smaller. Until these potatoes are available in quantity, probably in November, retailers have been asked to meet a current shortage by rationing consumers at the rate of 1 lb. per person weekly.

DAIRY INDUSTRY.

Pastures are growing well as a result of the rain and milder weather.

Quotas of butter and cheese production in October, 1943, to be reserved for local consumption are 45% and 49%, respectively.

QUOTAS OF BUTTER AND CHEESE FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION.

N.S.W., Vic., Q'land, and Tas.

| Month | Butter | | | | Cheese ϕ | | | |
|-------|------------------|---------|------------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|---------|
| | 1934/35 x | 1941/42 | 1942/43 | 1943/44 | 1934/35 | 1941/42 | 1942/43 | 1943/44 |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| July | 50 | 64 | 84 | 86 $\frac{2}{3}$ | 75 | 61 | 68 | 88 |
| Aug. | 55 | 57 | 76 | 81 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 75 | 47 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 50 | 70 |
| Sept. | 50 | 51 | 53 | 66 | 75 | 36 | 43 | 59 |
| Oct. | 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ | 46 | 41 | 45 | 37 | 28 | 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ | 49 |
| Nov. | 26 | 45 | 39 | | 44 | 29 | 31 | |
| Dec. | 24 | 38 | 38 | | 38 | 29 | 34 | |
| Mar. | 32 | 47 | 58 | | 58 | 42 | 61 | |
| June | 68 | 85 | 87 $\frac{1}{2}$ | | 78 | 63 | 96 | |

x Year of record production in Australia. ϕ applies to Sth. Australia also.

In August, 1943, pay by certain North Coast factories to cream suppliers was at the rate of 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. of commercial butter. This rate was the same as in June and July, 1943, but $\frac{1}{2}$ d. more than in August, 1942. For the half year ended June, 1943, "deferred pay" was at the rate of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. of butter as compared with 1d. in the first half of 1942. These amounts and the comparative monthly

/and.....

and deferred pays shown below do not include subsidy paid by the Commonwealth Government in respect of butter produced since July, 1942, viz. -

Final Subsidy of $\frac{6}{7}$ d. lb. butter produced in July, 1942 to March, 1943.
Interim Subsidy of $\frac{3}{4}$ d. lb. " " " April, 1943, and following months.

N.S.W. PAY TO CREAM SUPPLIERS.
by certain North Coast factories (excluding subsidy)
Pence per lb. of Commercial butter.

| Year | Monthly Pay | | | | | | | | Deferred Pay ★ | |
|------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May | June | July | Aug. | Jan.- June | July- Dec. |
| 1935 | $9\frac{1}{4}$ | 9 | $8\frac{1}{2}$ | $9\frac{1}{4}$ | $10\frac{1}{4}$ | $11\frac{3}{4}$ | 12 | 12 | $\frac{3}{4}$ | $\frac{3}{4}$ |
| 1939 | $12\frac{1}{4}$ | $12\frac{1}{2}$ | $12\frac{1}{2}$ | $12\frac{1}{4}$ | 12 | $12\frac{1}{2}$ | $12\frac{1}{2}$ | 12 | 1.06 | $\frac{3}{4}$ |
| 1941 | $12\frac{1}{2}$ | $12\frac{3}{8}$ | $12\frac{3}{4}$ | $12\frac{7}{8}$ | 13 | $13\frac{1}{4}$ | $13\frac{1}{4}$ | 13 | 1 | $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 1942 | $12\frac{1}{4}$ | $12\frac{1}{4}$ | $12\frac{1}{2}$ | $12\frac{1}{2}$ | 13 | $13\frac{1}{2}$ | $13\frac{1}{4}$ | $13\frac{1}{4}$ | 1 | $1\frac{7}{16}$ |
| 1943 | $13\frac{2}{7}$ | $13\frac{2}{7}$ | $13\frac{2}{7}$ | $13\frac{11}{14}$ | $13\frac{11}{14}$ | $13\frac{3}{4}$ | $13\frac{3}{4}$ | $13\frac{3}{4}$ | $1\frac{1}{8}$ | 0 |

★ Add to monthly pay in appropriate period. 0 not available.

The total pay (i.e. monthly and deferred combined) per lb. of commercial butter was $14\frac{1}{4}$ d. in June, 1941, and $14\frac{1}{2}$ d. in June, 1942. Including the interim subsidy of $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb. the pay so far received by suppliers is $18\frac{1}{8}$ d. in June, 1943, but the final rate for this month will not be determined until after the close of the current subsidy period in March, 1944.

PART II - FINANCE AND TRADE.

COMMONWEALTH BUDGET (1943-44).

The Budget provides for an expenditure of £715 m. (excluding tax reimbursed to States) of which £312 m. is to be financed from revenue and £403 m. from various forms of borrowing and internal funds. As compared with last year, expenditure and revenue are expected to increase by £45 m. so that the amount to be provided by borrowing etc.; is the same in both years.

A summary of the budget is shown below. Income tax is expected to yield £46 m. more than last year as a result of higher rates of tax introduced in April last. There is no other substantial change in revenue items. War expenditure is expected to increase by only £8 m. and non-war expenditure by £37 m. The latter amount includes nearly £30 m. which is to be transferred to the National Welfare Fund. As payments from this fund are estimated at only £2.3 m. apparently about £27.5 m. of the amount transferred will be available for war purposes.

| | <u>1942-43</u> <u>Actual.</u> | <u>1943-44</u> <u>Estimated.</u> | <u>Increase or</u> <u>Decrease(-)</u> |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| | £m. | £m. | £m. |
| <u>Revenue:</u> | | | |
| Taxes - Income | 114 | 160 | 46 |
| Other | 116 | 113 | (-) 3 |
| Other Revenue | 37 | 39 | 2 |
| | <u>267</u> | <u>312</u> | <u>45</u> |
| <u>Expenditure:</u> | | | |
| War | 562 | 570 | 8 |
| Other | 108 | 145 | 37 |
| Balance - expenditure not) | <u>670</u> | <u>715</u> | <u>45</u> |
| provided for by revenue)- | <u>403</u> | <u>403</u> | <u>-</u> |

(Excluding tax reimbursed to States)

Of the expenditure not provided for by revenue in 1942-43, finance for £179 m. was obtained by the issue of Treasury Bills which were discounted by the Commonwealth Bank. In 1943-44 it is hoped to raise £300 m. by public loans (£85 m. more than last year) and thus reduce dependence on credit expansion which results from the issue of Treasury Bills. With approximately £27 m. unspent balance in the National Welfare Fund available for temporary use, the position may be summarised as follows:

| | <u>1942-43</u> <u>£m.</u> | <u>1943-44</u> <u>£m.</u> |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Loans - Public Flotations | 205) | |
| War Savings Certif'. | 9) | |
| National Savings Bonds | 1) | 300 |
| Internal Funds | | |
| National Welfare Fund | - | 27 |
| Other | 9) | |
| | | 76 |
| Treasury Bills | 179) | |
| | <u>403</u> | <u>403</u> |

/BOND YIELDS.....

BOND YIELDS.

The estimated yields on short (2 years) and long (12 years) dated Commonwealth securities, subject to Commonwealth income tax at current rates, were the same at the end of August as at the end of July, 1943.

YIELDS ON COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT SECURITIES IN AUSTRALIA.

Subject to Commonwealth Income Tax at Current Rates.

| Six months ended. | Short-dated 2 years. | Long-dated 12 years. | Last Wednesday in month | Short-dated 2 years. | Long-dated 12 years. |
|-------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| | % | % | | % | % |
| 1941-June | 2.56 | 3.23 | 1943-April | 2.48 | 3.24 |
| December | 2.38 | 3.23 | May | 2.49 | 3.24 |
| 1942-June | 2.41 | 3.25 | June | 2.48 | 3.24 |
| December | 2.48 | 3.24 | July | 2.47 | 3.23 |
| 1943-June | 2.48 | 3.23 | August | 2.47 | 3.23 |

SHARE PRICES.

The controlled rise which has proceeded steadily since April, 1942, following reopening of the Stock Exchange, continued in August, 1943. In this month the Statistician's Index shows a notable gain of 8 points in the Retail group and small gains in other groups, except Pastoral and Finance and Insurance which have been steady for some time.

INDEX OF SHARE PRICES - SYDNEY.

Prices of ordinary shares - excl. banks. Par Value = 100.

(Compiled by N.S.W. Govt. Statistician).

| Average for Month | Manufacturing & Distributing | Retail | Public Utilities | Pastoral & Finance | Insurance | Total 75 Companies | 34 Active Shares |
|-------------------|------------------------------|--------|------------------|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|------------------|
| 1937 - Mar. | 214 | 204 | 181 | 169 | 281 | 190(a) | 201(a) |
| 1939 - Aug. | 213 | 168 | 156 | 118 | 264 | 174 | 182 |
| 1941 - Sept. | 228 | 177 | 142 | 128 | 253 | 175 | 191 |
| 1942 - April | 176 | 139 | 118 | 112 | 212 | 141 | 150 |
| 1943 - May | 234 | 178 | 141 | 133 | 254 | 179 | 196 |
| June | 235 | 178 | 141 | 133 | 254 | 180 | 196 |
| July | 235 | 181 | 143 | 133 | 254 | 181 | 198 |
| Aug. | 236 | 189 | 145 | 133 | 254 | 183 | 199 |

(a) Highest point recorded.

SAVINGS BANK & WAR SAVINGS CERTIFICATES.

Savings bank deposits are mounting rapidly. An increase of £3.8 m. in August 1943, was little less than the £4.3 m. in July, 1943, and greatly exceeded the £2.4 m. in August, 1942. For the two months ended August the increase was £8.1 m. this year, 56% above the increase, £5.2 m., last year.

/SAVINGS.....

SAVINGS BANK DEPOSITS AND WAR SAVINGS CERTIFICATES - N.S.W.

| (Year or Month) | Savings Bank Deposits. | | War Savings Certificate | |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| | At end of period. | Increase or Decrease (-) in Period | Outstanding at end of Period | Increase in Period. |
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| <u>Year ended June</u> | | | | |
| 1939 | 87,474 | 1,458 | - | - |
| 1940 | 82,111 | (-) 5,363 | 2,440 | 2,440 |
| 1941 | 87,750 | 5,639 | 6,480 | 4,040 |
| 1942 | 94,538 | 6,788 | 9,485 | 3,005 |
| 1943 | 122,405 | 27,867 | 12,539 | 3,054 |
| <u>Month</u> | | | | |
| 1942-May | 92,925 | 1,815 | 9,146 | 224 |
| June | 94,538 | 1,613(a) | 9,485 | 339 |
| July | 97,331 | 2,793 | 9,821 | 336 |
| August | 99,727 | 2,396 | 10,018 | 197 |
| 1943-May | 118,016 | 2,516 | 12,310 | 198 |
| June | 122,405 | 4,389(a) | 12,539 | 229 |
| July | 126,689 | 4,284 | 12,750 | 211 |
| August | 130,519 | 3,830 | 12,935 | 185 |

(a) Includes interest credited to accounts in June, 1942 £1,466,000 and 1943 £1,857,000.

WHOLESALE TRADE.

At £19.8 m. in July, 1943, sales by registered traders in N.S.W. were £0.6 m. more than in July, 1942, but £1.1 m. less than in June, 1943.

SALES IN N.S.W. BY TRADERS REGISTERED UNDER SALES TAX ACTS.
TOTAL TAXABLE AND EXEMPT GOODS.

| Period. | 1939 | 1940 | 1941 | 1942 | 1943 |
|----------------------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | £ million | | | |
| Year ended June | 192.4 | 204.3 | 215.4 | 235.2 | 242.3 |
| Half-year ended June | 93.8 | 97.8 | 110.4 | 116.4 | 120.6 |
| Month - April | 15.8 | 17.9 | 19.1 | 19.2 | 21.9 |
| May | 17.5 | 14.9 | 18.8 | 20.7 | 19.6 |
| June | 14.9 | 17.1 | 21.8 | 18.9 | 20.9 |
| July | 15.3 | 16.7 | 17.6 | 19.2 | 19.8 |

RETAIL TRADE.

There was only small variation in the value of sales by a group of large Sydney stores in May and June, 1943, as compared with the same months in 1942. Factors associated with the introduction of rationing and the close of the rationing year tended to equalise the value of sales in the respective months of the two years.

In July, 1943, the value of sales was 25.5% less than in July, 1942. The decline was greatest in departments grouped as Household Piece Goods (62.4%), (rationed as from 7 June, 1943) Furniture (49.3%) and Hardware (37%). In Departments classified as Women's Wear the decline was 14.8%, as Men's and Boy's Wear 18.7% and Boots and Shoes 3.8%; Sales of dress piece goods increased by 11.7% in value.

/TABLE.....

RETAIL TRADE - SYDNEY.

(Experience of 24 Sydney Stores)

Percentage increase from corresponding period of the previous year.

| Period. | Net Value of Sales. | Value of Stock. | Wages & Salaries. Paid. | Number of Employees. |
|-------------|------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1939 | + 2.4 | + 2.0 | + 2.6 | + 0.9 |
| 1940 | + 6.3 | + 17.0 | + 4.0 | + 1.9 |
| 1941 | + 14.6 | + 8.0 | + 9.0 | + 4.0 |
| 1942 | (-) 5.3 | + 9.2 | (-) 5.1 | (-) 8.4 |
| 1943 - Feb. | (-) 27.5 | + 2.2 | (-) 17.9 | (-) 23.0 |
| Mar. | (-) 14.1 | (-) 2.4 | (-) 9.4 | (-) 19.5 |
| Apr. | (-) 16.0 | (-) 2.3 | (-) 16.0 | (-) 20.0 |
| May | + 0.8 | (-) 11.1 | (-) 11.1 | (-) 19.7 |
| June | (-) 1.3 | (-) 10.2 | (-) 7.6 | (-) 15.7 |
| July | (-) 25.5 | (-) 7.7 | (-) 8.3 | (-) 14.7 |

PART III - INDUSTRIES ETC.EMPLOYMENT.

Estimates indicate that the number of salary and wage earners employed in N.S.W. (excluding rural employees and household domestics) declined by 800 in July, 1943, as compared with the previous month. There was a decline of 2,900 in the employment of males and an increase of 2,100 females.

The decline was confined to private employment in which the number of males declined 3,700 and females by 800, a total of 4,500; Government employment increased by 3,700; viz. 800 males and 2,900 females.

NEW SOUTH WALES.ESTIMATED WAGE & SALARY EARNERS EMPLOYED (EXCL. RURAL WORKERS & HOUSEHOLD DOMESTIC).

(Includes Civil Constructional Corps in N.S.W.)

| End of Month | M A L E S. | | | F E M A L E S. | | | T O T A L. | | |
|--------------|--|----------------------------|-------|--|---------------------------|-------|--|----------------------------|---------|
| | Govt. (C'wlth, State, Local & Allied). | Private Employ- ers. | Total | Govt. (C'wlth, State, Local & Allied). | Private Employ- ers | Total | Govt. (C'wlth, State, Local & Allied). | Private Employ- ers. | Total |
| | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 |
| 1939-July | 136.5 | 399.1 | 535.6 | 19.4 | 141.3 | 160.7 | 155.9 | 540.4 | 696.3 |
| 1941-July | 141.5 | 419.5 | 561.0 | 21.7 | 186.8 | 208.5 | 163.2 | 606.3 | 769.5 |
| Nov. | 144.3 | 425.1 | 569.4 | 23.0 | 194.8 | 217.8 | 167.3 | 619.9 | 787.2 x |
| 1942-June | 156.3 | 388.4 | 544.7 | 29.0 | 196.2 | 225.2 | 185.3 | 584.6 | 769.9 |
| July | 158.6 | 384.3 | 542.9 | 29.3 | 197.0 | 226.3 | 187.9 | 581.3 | 769.2 |
| Sept. | 157.1 | 381.9 | 539.0 | 31.3 | 196.9 | 228.2 | 188.4 | 578.8 | 767.2 φ |
| 1943-Jan. | 155.6 | 379.4 | 535.0 | 36.4 | 199.8 | 236.2 | 192.0 | 579.2 | 771.2 |
| Mar. | 156.2 | 378.0 | 534.2 | 38.7 | 201.2 | 239.9 | 194.9 | 579.2 | 774.1 |
| June | 155.8 | 375.7 | 531.5 | 42.9 | 200.5 | 243.4 | 198.7 | 576.2 | 774.9 |
| July | 156.6 | 372.0 | 528.6 | 45.8 | 199.7 | 245.5 | 202.4 | 571.7 | 774.1 |

x November, 1941, highest recorded. φ September, 1942, lowest since November, 1941

Estimates of the total factory and non-factory employment in July, 1943, and of increases and decreases as compared with June, 1943 are shown below.

| | <u>Employment July, 1943.</u> | | | <u>Movement June/July.</u> | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|----------------|--------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Males.</u> | <u>Females.</u> |
| Factory | 214.8 | 93.8 | 308.6 | (-) 1.5 | ... |
| Non-Factory (a) | <u>313.8</u> | <u>151.7</u> | <u>465.5</u> | (-) <u>1.4</u> | (+) <u>2.1</u> |
| Total (a) | <u>528.6</u> | <u>245.5</u> | <u>774.1</u> | (-) <u>2.9</u> | (+) <u>2.1</u> |

(a) Excluding rural employees and household domestics.

The largest movements in factory employment appear to have occurred in Founding, Engineering and Aircraft, etc. (males declined by approx. 1,600 and females increased by 300) and Food, Drink and Tobacco (males declined by 400 females by 100).

In Non-factory occupations employment declined in Building Construction (approx. males 700) Retail (males 100, females 500). Other Commerce and Finance (males 300, females 300). There was a small increase in the number of males employed in land transport and a large increase in females employed by Governmental bodies.

/TRANSPORT.....

TRANSPORT.

Railways. Traffic in July, 1943, exceeded that in July, 1942; viz., passenger by 1.4 m. journeys and goods and livestock by 76,000 tons. Gross earnings were £226,000 higher but net earnings declined by £130,000.

Comparing the movement from June to July, a decline in passenger journeys of 0.8 m. this year was not so great as 1.2 m. last year, whilst increases this year in goods and livestock carried (39,000 tons) and gross earnings (£135,000) were smaller than last year's increases of 83,000 tons and £272,000, respectively.

Government Trams & Buses. Passenger journeys in July, 1943, were 1.1 m. greater than in July, 1942, but gross earnings were the same and net earnings declined by £21,000.

GOVERNMENT TRANSPORT SERVICES: N.S.W.

| Month | Railways. | | | | Trams & Buses. | | |
|-----------|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| | Passenger Journeys | Goods & Livestock Tonnage | Gross Earnings | Net Earnings * | Passenger Journeys | Gross Earnings. | Net Earnings * |
| | million | 000 | £000 | £000 | million | £000 | £000 |
| 1939-July | 15.2 | 1,386 | 1,542 | 370 | 24.9 | 351 | 43 |
| 1941- " | 16.8 | 1,460 | 2,048 | 623 | 38.1 | 428 | 67 |
| 1942-June | 19.5 | 1,576 | 2,454 | ✓ | ✓ | 433 | ✓ |
| July | 18.3 | 1,659 | 2,726 | 1,108 | 39.7 | 453 | 50 |
| 1943-June | 20.5 | 1,696 | 2,817 | ✓ | ✓ | 447 | ✓ |
| July | 19.7 | 1,735 | 2,952 | 978 | 40.8 | 453 | 29 |

* Gross earnings less working expenses, available to pay interest, etc. on loan debt and, in Trams & buses, depreciation. ✓ Not available on comparable basis.

Motor Registrations.

There were increases of 293 cars and 362 lorries and vans in August, 1943. Since August, 1942, when registrations were nearly at the lowest wartime level, cars registered have increased by 3,428 and lorries and vans by 1,976.

MOTOR VEHICLES REGISTERED IN N.S.W.

| Vehicles | At end of Month. | | | Increase. | | | |
|----------------|------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|
| | Aug. 1939 | Aug. 1942 | Aug. 1943 | June 1943 | July 1943 | Aug. 1943 | Aug. '42 to Aug. '43. |
| | 000 | 000 | 000 | | | | |
| Cars | 216.6 | 170.3 | 173.7 | 8 | 252 | 293 | 3,428 |
| Lorries & Vans | 77.6 | 70.9 | 72.9 | 356 | 341 | 362 | 1,976 |
| All Vehicles | 329.2 | 267.5 | 272.0 | 307 | 705 | 650 | 4,453 |

In August, 1943, new cars, cabs and omnibuses registered averaged only 3 per week and lorries and vans 55. Corresponding figures in August, 1942, were 19 and 9 respectively, and in August, 1939, 322 and 146.

BUILDING.

The estimated cost of proposed new buildings and alterations and additions recorded in August, 1943, was:

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Private buildings in the metropolis (permits issued) | £ 120,000 |
| Governmental buildings in N.S.W. (contracts let) | 247,000 |

Both amounts are lower than in July, 1943.

/In the.....

In the two months ended August, 1943, private building permits issued in the metropolis amounted to £322,000 (including factories £249,000 and houses £15,000) as compared with £168,000 (factories £137,000, Houses £10) last year. Contracts let (in N.S.W.) by governmental authorities in the two months amounted to £595,000 this year and £782,000 last year.

ESTIMATED COST OF PROPOSED BUILDINGS, N.S.W. (Recorded Statistics).

New Buildings, Alterations & Additions (except A.R.P.)

| Period. | Private Building (Permits to Build) | | Public Building. (C'w. & State Govts.) | | Total. | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|---|---------------------------|----------------|--|--------|
| | Metrop- olis. | Other N.S.W. (as far as recorded). | Metropolis | Remainder of State. | Metropolis | Other N.S.W. (As far as recorded) | Total |
| <u>Year ended June:</u> | | | <u>Thousands of £'s.</u> | | | | |
| 1939 | 15,333 | 5,953 | Not Available. | | Not Available. | | |
| 1940 | 11,437 | 5,052 | 1,035 | 1,537 | 12,490 | 6,589 | 19,079 |
| 1942 | 5,969 | 3,364 | 1,329 | 3,640 | 7,298 | 7,004 | 14,302 |
| 1943 | 1,400 | 468 | 2,847 | 2,120 | 4,247 | 2,588 | 6,835 |
| <u>Two Months ended August:</u> | | | | | | | |
| 1939 | 2,731 | Not | 455 | 101 | 3,186 | | |
| 1940 | 2,004 | avail- | 228 | 999 | 2,232 | Not | |
| 1942 | 168 | able. | 228 | 554 | 396 | Available. | |
| 1943 | 322 | | 363 | 232 | 685 | | |